

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066176

GENEVA FOR USDEL OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UN

SUBJECT: WEAPONS IN SPACE

REF: (A) HOSENBALL-MICHAUD TELECON, MARCH 13
(B) GENEVA 03932

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1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT JAPANESE INTEND TO
MAKE STATEMENT WEDNESDAY IN GENEVA MEETING OF LEGAL SUB-
COMMITTEE OF UN OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD:

-- PROPOSE ADDITIONAL CONTROLS ON SATELLITES, PARTICULARLY
CONCERNING NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES AND SAFETY.

-- CALL FOR POSSIBLE PROHIBITION OF THE LAUNCHING OF SATELLITES DESIGNED FOR USE AS DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS. DEPARTMENT INFORMED THAT THIS STATEMENT IS BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM TOKYO WHICH RESPOND TO PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTION.

2. FOR GENEVA: BELIEVE US DEL HAS SUFFICIENT INSTRUCTIONS ON NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE. ON DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS, US DEL SHOULD APPROACH JAPANESE DEL AND:

-- NOTE IMPORTANCE OF NOT CONFUSING (1) NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE; (2) WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IN SPACE;

AND (3) ANTI-SATELLITE WEAPONS.

-- NOTE THAT SOME POTENTIAL ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEMS ARE NOT SATELLITES, AND WOULD NOT NEED TO BE DEPLOYED IN SPACE.

-- POINT OUT THAT US IS SYMPATHETIC TO GENERAL GOJ GOAL. THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAVE BOTH EMPHASIZED THE US DESIRE TO AVOID AN ASAT ARMS COMPETITION. WE ANTICIPATE THAT TALKS ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE HELD BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR.

-- REQUEST THAT THE PART OF PROPOSED STATEMENT DEALING WITH WEAPONS BE DROPPED.

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THE US DEL SHOULD NOT ENTER OPEN DEBATE ON THIS POINT AT PRESENT.

3. FOR TOKYO: REQUEST YOU APPROACH MOFA AND INQUIRE ABOUT GOJ FLEXIBILITY IN INSTRUCTIONS TO JAPANESE DELEGATION IN GENEVA DEALING WITH SATELLITES DESIGNED FOR USE AS WEAPONS. IF FEASIBLE, EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK REVISION PROPOSED ABOVE.
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